

**THE FIRST HEALTHCARE COALITION MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2006
SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

The 9 Goals that were identified as priorities during the May 12 Summit were reviewed and then collapsed into 3 thematic areas - availability, affordability and prescriptions. Three workgroups were formed to address those three areas and a fourth workgroup was formed to assist in the development of a comprehensive community health needs assessment.

If you know of others who may be interested in participating in the Coalition and its workgroups, please invite them to attend the next meeting. The workgroups have each identified additional meeting times before the next full Coalition meeting October 4. Contact each workgroup chair for more information.

WORKGROUPS

AVAILABILITY

Brenda Lee, Chair
Dr. Marilea Miller, Co-Chair

*Next Meeting: September 27, 2006
4-6 pm, FMH/Classroom #2

AFFORDABILITY

Pat Hanberry, Contact

*Next Meeting: September 27, 2006
4pm, MHA

PRESCRIPTIONS

Bonnie Bramwell, Chair

*Next Meeting: September 20, 2006
4-6 pm, FMH

NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKGROUP

Barbara Brookmyer, Chair

*Next Meeting: September 18, 2006
4-5:30 pm, FCHD/Auditorium

Background information was provided. No comprehensive community health needs assessment addressing public health issues has been conducted in Frederick County. The absence of comprehensive statistically significant data on nationally validated questions has impaired the ability of numerous county agencies and organizations to be competitive with grant submissions. The Board of County Commissioners approved \$134,500 to conduct a community health needs assessment this year. The general concept is outlined below. More details will be made available in the Request for Proposals, which the Health Department is drafting.

The Needs Assessment Workgroup will work with the contractor in a number of areas including developing the questions and methodology. The first stage will involve developing a community profile from data that already exists for Frederick County. The second stage will be the development and administration of the survey instrument. The third stage includes analysis of the findings and development of recommendations for future updates. During the first meeting we informally identified potential areas and issues for analysis.

The next meeting will focus on cataloging existing data for Frederick County. The next meeting will be held Monday September 18th from 4-5:30pm at the Frederick County Health Department, 350 Montevue Lane, just off of Rosemont in Frederick in the Auditorium. More participants are welcome. The contact person is Barbara Brookmyer, bbrookmyer@fredco-md.net, 301-694-2509.

****Local Update on Community Health Grant: The Frederick Community Action Agency (FCAA) is planning to submit a proposal to expand primary care services beyond the homeless population to low-income persons. The FCAA should be a very competitive applicant. The FCAA's success in gaining the grant to expand access to care to low-income persons will be a major step toward addressing the barriers identified at the Summit. Unfortunately there will still be barriers that will need a collective response to eliminate. Some of the barriers that will likely to continue to be present include - dental and mental health care, persons who have incomes above a cut-off threshold yet are uninsured and/or unable to pay for care, co-pays or medications, specialty care, and transportation. ****

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING THE MEETING

1. Emergency preparedness planning and response for Special Needs Populations at the county level is the topic of an upcoming town hall type meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur in October and then it will be followed by a larger conference after the New Year to respond to the needs raised during the town hall meeting. For more information contact Kathy Forrest in the Bureau of Emergency Management by e-mail at kaforrest@fredco-md.net or by phone at 240-629-6679.
2. There is an upcoming meeting in DC for all housing authorities in DC, MD and VA on health and public housing. The focus is on how we can improve health access and outcomes for public housing families. The event will be held at Howard University in Washington, DC on 9/26 from 9 AM to 5 PM. If you are interested contact Bob Hendricks locally at bob.h6@adelphia.net.
3. Information was provided regarding the Community Health Grant request for proposals.